

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for data printing and data writing to a memory tag on or in a base medium, the apparatus having a print head for printing onto the base medium, and a memory tag write device for data writing to the memory tag on or in the base medium, wherein the base medium is moved along a first axis through or past the apparatus, and at least a part of the memory tag write device required for communication with the memory tag is moveable relative to the base medium back and forth along a second axis substantially perpendicular to the first axis.
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2. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the print head is moveable relative to the base medium and moves back and forth along a third axis substantially perpendicular to the first axis.
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3. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the print head and the part of the memory tag write device are connected together and move in unison along the second and third axes.
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4. Apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the print head and the part of the memory tag write device are amalgamated into a single unit and the second and third axes coincide.
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5. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the print head and the part of the memory tag write device move independently along the second and third axes.
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6. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the memory tag write device is a memory tag read/write device, such that the data written to the memory tags can be read and checked after being written.

- 5 7. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the memory tag write device is a memory tag read/write device, such that data written to memory tags on previously printed base medium can be read from those memory tags when the previously printed base medium is moved through or past the apparatus.

- 10 8. Apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the data once read is used to print additional copies of the previously printed base medium.

9. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein it is adapted to handle base
15 medium in loose sheet form which passes through the apparatus.

10. Apparatus according to claim 9 wherein it is adapted to handle loose sheets of paper or like material.

- 20 11. Apparatus for data printing onto a base medium and data writing to a memory tag on or in the base medium, the apparatus having a print head for printing onto the base medium, and a memory tag write device for data writing to the memory tag, wherein the base medium is moved along a first axis through or past the apparatus, the print head is moveable relative to the base medium and moves back and forth along a third axis substantially perpendicular to the first axis, and at least a part of the memory tag write device which is required for communication with the memory tag is moveable relative to the base medium back and forth along a second axis substantially perpendicular to the first axis.
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12. A method of printing onto a base medium and writing to a memory tag on or in the base medium comprising the steps of:
- 5 i) feeding the base medium along a first axis past a print head;
- ii) printing onto the base medium;
- iii) feeding the base medium past a memory tag write device;
- iv) moving the memory tag write device along a second axis substantially perpendicular to the first axis to the location of a memory tag in or on the base medium, and
- 10 v) writing data to the memory tag in or on the base medium.
13. A method according to claim 12 wherein it further includes the step of moving the print head relative to the base medium along a third axis substantially perpendicular to the first axis in order to print onto the base
- 15 medium in required locations.